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**図発明の名称** 超微粒子からなるダイヤモンド焼結体およびその製造方法

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明 細 1

1.発明の名称 超微粒子からなるダイヤモンド 焼結体およびその製造方法

#### 2. 特許請求の範囲

- 1. 一次粒子径が100nm から10nmで、二次粒子径が100nm から50μm までの多結晶ダイヤモンド粉55乃至95%と、粒子径が1μm 以上で10μm 以下の事実上単結晶のダイヤモンド粉95%が乃至5%が混合されて、不可避不純物を除く他の物質を介さずに直接に接合されており、実質的に一体となっていることを特徴とするダイヤモンド焼結体。
- 2. 請求項1に規定するダイヤモンド焼結体に おいて、その密度が85%以上であることを特 徴とするダイヤモンド焼結体。
- 3. 請求項1または2に規定するダイヤモンド 焼結体において、ダイヤモンド中に微量の黒 鉛が含まれることを特徴とするダイヤモンド 焼結体。
- 4. 請求項1ないし3のいずれかに規定するダ

5. 請求項4に規定するダイヤモンド焼結体の製造方法において、焼結原料の多結晶ダイヤモンド粉が、一次粒子径が100nm から10nmで、二次粒子径が 100nm以上で50μm 未満である衝撃超高圧によって合成した多結晶ダイヤモンドであることを特徴とするダイヤモンド焼結体の製造方法。

6. 請求項4または5に規定するダイヤモンド 焼結体の製造方法において、焼結原料のダイ ヤモンド粉が天然ダイヤモンド、静的超高圧 によって合成したダイヤモンドの何れかまた は両方からなるものであることを特徴とする ダイヤモンド焼結体。

#### 3. 発明の詳細な説明

#### (産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、粉体のダイヤモンドを衝撃に伴って 発生する超高圧、高温によって、介在物を含まず に焼結してなる高硬度、高靭性のダイヤモンド焼 結体およびその製造法に関する。

#### (従来の技術)

従来ダイヤモンドを含む焼結体は主に2種類の製造方法が知られていた。一つはダイヤモンド粉にCo、NI等の金属を添加してプレスによって静的超高圧を発生し、ヒーターで同時に高温を発生させて金属の介在下に焼結したダイヤモンド焼結体で、焼結体中に金属を含むためにその焼結体を切削工具として利用する場合に金属がダイヤモンド

に比べて弱いため、その性能に限界があることが 知られている。もう一つの方法は、何も添加して ないダイヤモンド粉を金属製カプセルに収め、そ の外部から主として爆薬の爆発によって発生する 超高圧を直接伝えるか、爆薬の爆発などによって 発生する超高圧を受けて高速で飛躍する金属板を 街突させることにより、ダイヤモンド粉を圧縮成 形して介在物なしに焼結する方法である。例えば Akashi & Sawaoka | IJournal of Material Science (材料化学誌:雑誌名邦訳)の第22巻3276買に、 2 - 4 μα と10-20 μα の 2 種の粒度範囲を持っ た単結晶ダイヤモンド粉に90G Paの衝盤を負荷し、 ダイヤモンドの真密度に対して88.5%と91.0%の 相対密度の焼結体を得たと報告している。また、 吉田、田中、青木及び藤原は、第2回グイヤモン ドシンポジウム講演要旨集昭和62年12月14、15日 開催) 25頁に、5-7 μm 、0.5 - 1 μm 、0-0.5 µm の3種の粒度分布を有する試料の衝撃圧 力を負荷して焼結体を得たとしているが、その硬 度値やその他の焼結体の性質については報告され

てなく、硬度にばらつきが多く、圧痕の測定できないものも多く、特に 0 - 0.5 μ m の粒度範囲のものではダイヤモンドのグラファイト化が顕著であったと報告している。

### (発明が解決しようとする課題)

しかし、上記方法による場合、500nm 以下のダイヤモンド粒子が存在すると、超高圧を負荷するのと同時に発生する高圧によって、それらが黒鉛化し、ダイヤモンド焼結体特有の高硬度が得られず、500nm 以上のダイヤモンド粒子のみによって焼結しなければならず、好ましくは、数μm 以上の粒子を使用あることが適当とされていた。500nm 以上の粒子を焼結原料として使用した場合には上記の黒鉛化による問題を発生し難くなるが、概して三つの問題が発生する。

一つは大きなダイヤモンド粒子を原料として使用すると、当然粒子間の空隙も大きくなる。従って粒子同士を強固に結合するためには、その大きな空隙を埋めるだけの大きな変形をダイヤモンド粒子に与えなければならない。原理的にはダイヤ

モンド粒子の高い硬度、従って高い変形抵抗にうちかつ高い圧力をかけて粒子同士を密着さればせ、 その際同時に発生する高温を利用して接合すれば脆性材料であり、衝撃で処理する場合にはグイヤモンド粒子を貫通する亀裂の発生が避けられない。 反面 度結合されることが期待である、 金部の亀裂が再結合されることは殆ど無く、 亀裂のまま残存して焼結体の強度を低くする結果を有する。

二番目の問題は、一番目の問題を解決するために高い圧力を負荷することによって発生する問題である。即ち、高い圧力を負荷することによって外の集合体は強く圧縮されて断熱的に温度上昇するが、高い圧力をかければかけるほど温度も高くなるために、好ましくない温度に違し、その結果黒鉛化を避けるために粒子径を大きくしたのが逆に働いて黒鉛化を助長し、必要な焼結体硬度が維持できなくなることになる處れが大きい。

三番目の問題は、上記の問題を解決して焼結体 が出来たとした場合の問題である。良く知られた 事実として、ダイヤモンドは(111) 面に劈開面を 有する。即ち(111) 面に平行な応力を加えること によって、ダイヤモンドは容易にその面に沿って 割れる。よって、天然、合成を問わず、一つの単 結晶ダイヤモンドをそのまま工具に使用する場合、 主な応力が(111) 面に平行な方向にかからないよ うに配慮しなければならない。しかし、どのよう に注意しても、工具として使用する場合は各方向 の応力が負荷されることは当然であり、劈開によ る単結晶ダイヤモンド工具の破壊は謂わば宿命的 なものとされている。それを避けるために、多数 の粒子を無作為に配置して焼結し、強固な一体の 焼結体として工具に利用されている訳であるが、 焼結体ダイヤモンドの微細な構造を見ると個々の 粒子は単結晶であり、それぞれ相変らず劈開性を 有している。そのため、工具として切削や線引き、 掘削等に使用される場合、局所に集中的かつ衝撃 的な応力がかかるため、個々の粒子の強度が問題

となってきて、劈開性が現われる結晶格子(111) 面に近い角度で粒子に応力が負荷されると容易に その粒子が損傷を受けて破損し、場合によっては 隣接したダイヤモンド粒子に次々に亀裂を伝播さ せ、焼結体損耗を早める。要するに、ランダムな 方向で配列焼結した焼結体であっても、微視的に 見れば単結晶の集まりであるので、その欠点が残っていると云う問題があり、解決されていない。 (課題を解決するための手段)

発明者らは、前項の問題を解決するために多くの理論的、実質的検討を進め、本発明に到達した。 まず、前項の三つの問題点のそれぞれについて、 各個に検討し対策を考える。

- (2) 前項により、おおきな粒子を使用しないこと

(3) 前記2項により、従来の技術でも衝撃強度を充分に吟味すれば、有害な黒鉛化を最低限に抑えて工具材料として使用可能な焼結体を作れる可能性もないことが分かった。しかし、個々のダイヤモンド粒子が単結晶としての性質を焼結体になってからも保持していることになる問題はそれらに

よっては対処できない。結論としては、単結晶の ダイヤモンド粒子を使用する限りはその問題は避 けられないことである。従って発明者らは爆薬の 爆発に伴う超高圧や、火薬銃あるいは二段式軽ガ ス銃または電気的方法によって発射された金属ま たは弾丸が衝突する際に発生する衝撃超高圧によ って合成されたダイヤモンド(以後衝撃合成ダイ ヤモンドとする)が、多結晶質であることに着目 し、それを通常の単結晶ダイヤモンドに混合して 焼結原料に用いることによって、単結晶のダイヤ モンド粒子のみを焼結した場合に発生する問題を 解決し、事実上焼結体内に結晶上の方向性を伴わ ないために、天然、合成を問わず単結晶で一体の ダイヤモンドを有する劈開性を全く伴わず、また、 従来の焼結体ダイヤモンドよりはるかに優れた耐 摩耗性、耐衝撃性を有するダイヤモンド焼結体が 得られることを見出したものである。衝撃合成ダ イヤモンドが多結晶質であると云う意味は、個々 の寸法が非常に微細な単結晶粒子(一次粒子と称 する) が多数集って一つの粒子 (二次粒子と称す

る)をかたち作っていることを意味し、一次粒子 の寸法は10nmから100nm 、二次粒子の寸法は数10 nmから数100 μm まであることが知られている。 100 m以下の寸法の一次粒子の集ってできた二次 粒子を事実上介在物なしに焼結した場合、焼結体 は全て100mm 以下の単結晶が無作為に配置されて 一体となっていることになり、100mm 以下の極く 微細な単結晶の場合、劈開性は全く問題にならな い。従って、衝撃合成ダイヤモンドを原料として 焼結体を作った場合、方向性が全くない、全体が 等質である理想的なグイヤモンドが得られる。ま た、衝撃合成ダイヤモンドと通常の単結晶ダイヤ モンドを混合して焼結原料に用いると、単結晶ダ イヤモンドが多結晶ダイヤモンドと混在すること によって、一つの単結晶ダイヤモンド粒子が損傷 を受けても、隣り合った多結晶ダイヤモンド粒子 がそれぞれ食止めることによって、破損を最小限 度に止める効果を発揮することが分かった。更に、 従来の単結晶ダイヤモンドを使用して衝撃焼結し たダイヤモンド焼結体が、原料ダイヤモンド粉末

の粒子径が 500nm 以上でないと良好な焼結体体の 得られなかったのに対して、本発明によるドと選れなかったのに対して、本発明によるドと通常の単結晶グイヤモンドと通常の単結によって、 がイヤモンドと通常の単結なによって、 がイヤモンド焼結体は、衝撃によって、 が行って、 が行って、 が行って、 が行って、 が行って、 が行って、 が行って、 が行った。 が行った。 でも、 が行った。 でも、 が行った。 でいた。 でいた。

また、本発明による超微粒子を含むダイヤモンド焼結体は、極く微量のダイヤモンドが高温によって転換した黒鉛を含むが、これは不定型の衝撃合成ダイヤモンドの表面の一部で突出した部分が局部的にダイヤモンド不安定領域の高温にさらされた結果生じたものと考えられる。本来、黒鉛は

固体潤滑材として用いられる程軟らかく、高硬度と高強度を求めるダイヤモンド焼結体中に存在することは好ましくないと考えられていた。しかヤモンド焼結体の場合は、後に述べる程の量が存在する程度であれば従来の静的超高圧による市販ダイヤモンド焼結体より優れた性能を発揮し、殆ど問題ではなく、むしろ本発明によるダイヤモンド焼結体の特徴と考えられる。

#### (発明の効果)

 単結晶ダイヤモンドを原料とした焼結ダイヤモンドを有する劈開性を事実上有していない全く新しい優れた焼結体である。

#### (実施例)

次に本発明を実施例によって説明する。

#### 実施例1

した後に、10<sup>-3</sup> torrの真空炉中で400 ℃、4時間保持して吸着した酸素を除去した。酸素の除去作業を終了してから、真空引き用の穴は真空中で銀 螺によって封止して内部の真空を保持した。

封入したダイヤモンドの量は1.32g で、かさ比 重は2.33g /cdとなり、ダイヤモンドの真比重と される値の約66.4%に相当する。

 試料などからなる構成13を槽の中央に位置するよ うにして載せ、更に厚さ3.2 mm、150 mm角のSS41 超板14の中央部に比重1.64g/cmlで爆発速度9.000m /secの爆棄15を厚さ30m、直径120 mmの円板状に 成形したものを載せ、鋼板14の底面と構成13の上 面が平行でかつ距離が30㎜になるように鋼板14の 四隅に高さ30mm、幅30mm、厚さ15mmの木片16を配 置して置いた。更に爆薬の上面に平面波発生装置 17を載せ、それに6号電気雷管18を装着して通電 し、爆薬15を鋼板14の平面に平行な爆轟波面で爆 発させた。爆発によって、爆薬15の下面の鋼板14 は下方に高速で飛ばされ、構成13の上面に平行に 2.8 Km/secの速度で衝突した。その際に鋼板14と. 構成13の表面のSUS 304 ステンレス鋼の街突面に 発生した圧力を計算した所、71.8GPa (約73万気 圧)であった。

鋼板が衝突した構成13は、槽11内に満たされた水10の中に打ち込まれ、槽11の底から回収された。 構成13のうち、試料収納部5とリング6はばらば らに破壊されていたが、カプセル1は蓋3を備え

たまま、変形は認められたがほぼ原形を保って回 収された。

回収したカプセル1の蓋3の反対側の端を、充 域したダイヤモンドの表面が露出するまで旋盤を 用いて切削バイトによって切削した処、ダイヤモ ンドは全体が強固に結合した焼結体になっていた。

得られたダイヤモンド焼結体の表面を 5 -10 μm の粒度範囲を有するダイヤモンドベーストで研磨し、マイクロビッカース硬度試験が可能な程度の平滑さに仕上げてから荷重 1 kgf でマイクロビッカース硬度を測定したところ、衝撃波の入射側の面で平均4,830 kgf/mm (n=12)、反対側の面で平均6,320 kgf/mm (n=12)の値が得られた。

アルキメデス法によって得られた焼結体の密度 を測定したところ、3.29g/cdで、ダイヤモンドの 真密度とされる値3.51g/cdの93.7%であった。

ダイヤモンド焼結体の表面をX線回折試験によって検査したところ、円板の上下面共に広い回折角にわたって僅かな黒鉛の存在が認められた。

直径約12㎜、厚さ約3.5 ㎜の焼結体をレーザー

で十文字に切断して、一辺が約5.8 mmで頂角90°の扇状のチップとし、12.7 mm角で長さが150 mmの鋼製の柄の長手の端に銀蠟でダイヤモンド焼結体を包み込んで取り付け、切削試験用のバイトとした。対象試験用として、市販の静的超高圧焼結によるCoを含むダイヤモンド焼結体によって、同様なパイトを作成した。

一方、NC 約92 wt % とCo 約8 wt % を混合、成形した後900 で 1 時間の焼成で仮焼体とした直径約100 mm、長さ約250 mmの円柱を、本発明によるダイヤモンド焼結体を取り付けたパイトで切削した。切削条件は、周速55-30m/min、切込み0.3-0.5 mm、送り0.2 mm/revとした。その結果、延べ2時間の切削でやや切れ味が低下したので試験を終了した。焼結体の刃先を倍率20倍の実体顕微鏡で調べたところ、先端が摩耗によって0.28 mm後退していた。

次に同様な切削試験を、市販の静的超高圧焼結 によるCoを含むダイヤモンド焼結体を取り付けた パイトで実施した。その結果、切削を開始してか ら13分後に刃先が欠損して以後の切削試験は実施 できなくなった。

#### 比較例1

実施例1の実験を繰り返した。ただし、充城したダイヤモンドは、静的超高圧で溶融触媒を用いて合成した。個々のダイヤモンド粒子は単結晶のものとした。また、ダイヤモンドの粒子寸法は、全部の粒子の99%以上が250nm から500nm の範囲に含まれるものとし、実施例1と同寸法のカプセルに1.18g が充塡できた。この場合のかさ比重は2.08g/cdとなり、ダイヤモンドの実比重とされる値の約59.4%に相当する。

回収されたカプセルを実施例 L と同様にして切削し、ダイヤモンド部分を露出した処、ダイヤモンドは一見強固に焼結されたように見受けられた。

実施例 1 と同様にしてマイクロビッカース硬度 を測定したところ、衝撃波の入射側の面で平均 3.710 kg f/cm<sup>2</sup>(n = 12)、反対側の面で平均4,920 kg f/cm<sup>2</sup>(n = 12) の値が得られた。

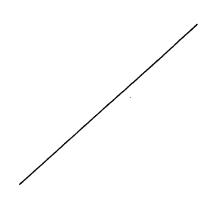
また、ダイヤモンド焼結体の表面をX線回折試 験によって検査したところ、円板の上下面共に広 い回折角度にわたって黒鉛の(002) 面の回折を示すピークが認められ、僅かな黒鉛の存在が示唆されたが、その回折ピークの高さをダイヤモンドの(111) ピークの高さで割った値は、実施例1のものが0.03であったのに対して0.18あり、黒鉛化度がより高いことを示していた。マイクロビッカース硬度が実施例1のものより低かったのも、そのためと考えられる。

次に実施例1と同様にしてダイヤモンド焼結体による切削試験用バイトを製作し、同様な切削試験をおこなった。その結果、バイト先端は切削開始後8分で欠損し、静的超高圧焼結による市販ダイヤモンド焼結体より劣っていた。

#### 実施例2-6

実施例1の実験を繰り返した。ただし、使用したダイヤモンドの粒子寸法と種類及び鋼板が試料ダイヤモンドを収納したカプセル表面に衝突する速度について、各種の組合せを作って試みた。その条件及び結果を表1に示す。尚、表中の充塡率とは、ダイヤモンドの真比重を3.515g/cdとして、

ダイヤモンド粒子を充塡した際のかさ比重を真比 重で除した値を100 分率で示したものである。ま た、発生圧力は、鋼板とステンレスカプセルの衝 突面に発生する圧力値である。



実施例ia	ダイヤモンドの種類と 粒子寸法、混合率% 及び充填率%	後突速度 (Ka/sec)	発生圧力 (GPa)	桔 果				
2	街路合成ダイヤモンド 500mm - 2 μm : 20% 単結晶ダイヤモンド 3 - 5 μm : 80% 充模率: 61,8%	1.8	40.0	良好な焼結体が得られた ビッカース硬度5,300- 6,800 X線回折のダイヤモンド の(11) 面のビーク値に 対する尾部の(002) 面の ビーク比は0.06であった。				
3	街摩合成ダイヤモンド 200mm −500mm :90% 単結晶ダイヤモンド1 μm − 2 μm :10% 末填率:63.2%	2.2	52.0	良好な焼結体が得られた ビッカース硬度5,500 - 7,100。 X線回折のダイヤモンド の(111) 面のビータ値に 対する黒鉛の(002) 面の ビーク比は0,08であった。				
4	ii酵合成ダイヤモンド 100mm −500mm : 95% 単結晶ダイヤモンド5 μm −10 μm : 5% 充規率: 58.1%	2.0	48.0	良好な焼結体が得られた ビッカース硬度5,500 - 6,600。 X線回防のダイヤモンド の(111) 面のビーク値に 対する原鉛の(002) 面の ビーク比は0.10であった。				
5	街撃合成ダイヤモンド 100mm -500am : 5 % 単結晶ダイヤモンド5 μm - 8 μm : 35% 充填本: 60.7%	2.0	48.0	良好な焼結体が得られた ビッカース便度5,800 ー 6,900 ー X線回折のダイヤモンド の(111) 面のピーク値に 対する黒鉛の(002) は面 のピーク止は0.03であっ た。				
6	衝離合成ダイヤモンド 500nm − 5 μm : 25% 単結晶ダイヤモンド3 μm − 5 μm : 75% 充地中: 58,0%	2.0	48.0	良好な焼結体が得られた ビッカース健度6.100 ー 6.950 、 X 幼回所のダイヤモンド の(111) 間のピーク値に 対する黒鉛の(002) 面の ピーク比は0.03であった。				

## 4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は試料を収納するカブセルを説明するための図、

第2図は試料を衝撃処理して回収するためのモーメンタムトラップと回収容器の断面図である。

1…カプセル部

2 … 烧結原料

3 … 蓋

4 …真空引き用の穴

5 …試料収納部

6 …リング

7 … 円板

8 …容器

9 …粘土

10…水

11…槽

12…木板

13…構成

14…鋼板

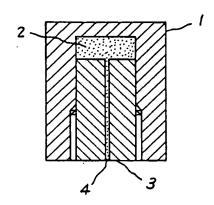
15…爆薬

16…木片

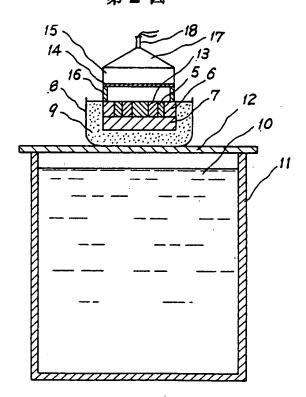
17…平面波発生装置

18…電気雷管

# 第1図



第2図



# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant: NIPPON OIL & FATS CO LTD

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18.07.1988

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SAWAI SUMIKAZU

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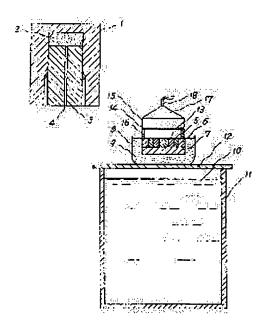
KUROYAMA YUTAKA SAKAKIBARA IKUO

# (54) SINTERED MATERIAL OF DIAMOND CONSISTING OF ULTRAFINE PARTICLE AND PRODUCTION THEREOF

# (57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve hardness and toughness by directly bonding specific polycrystalline diamond powder to diamond powder of single crystal.

CONSTITUTION: A mixture 2 of (A) 5-95vol.% polycrystalline diamond powder having 10-100nm diameter of primary particles and 100nm-50µm diameter of secondary particle and (B) 95-5vol.% diamond powder of single crystal having 1-10μm particle diameter is sealed in a metallic capsule 1, a cover 3 bored with a hole 4 for vacuumizing is screwed into one end of the side of the capsule, the capsule 1 is evacuated through the hole 4 and the hole 4 is sealed. Then the capsule 1 is packed into a momentum trap made by combining a storage part 5 of test specimen, a ring 6 and a disc 7,



embedded in clay 9, an explosive compound 15 and a plane wave generator 17 are placed through a steel plate 14 on the trap, the explosive compound 15 is exploded, the shot metallic plate or bullet is collided at ≥1.8kg/second velocity when calculated under a collision condition between stainless steels SUS, a high temperature and high pressure are generated and the diamonds are sintered to give sintered material of diamond having ≥85% density.

## **LEGAL STATUS**

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

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[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 2[1990]-30667

# DIAMOND SINTERED MATERIAL CONSISTING OF ULTRAFINE PARTICLES AND PRODUCTION THEREOF

Kenichi Kondo, et al.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 2005
TRANSLATED BY THE RALPH MCELROY TRANSLATION COMPANY

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**Examination Request:** 

Not filed

# DIAMOND SINTERED MATERIAL CONSISTING OF ULTRAFINE PARTICLES AND PRODUCTION THEREOF

[Chobiryushi karanaru daiyamondo shoketsutai oyobi sono seizo hoho]

Inventor:

Kenichi Kondo, et al.

Applicants:

Nippon Oil and Fats Co., Ltd. and

Kenichi Kondo

[There are no amendments to this patent.]

## **Claims**

/1\*

1. A diamond sintered material characterized by the following facts: 55-95% of polycrystalline diamond powder with primary particle size in the range of 100-10 nm is mixed with secondary particle size in the range of 100 nm to 50  $\mu$ m and 95-5% of essentially monocrystalline diamond powder with particle size in the range of 1-10  $\mu$ m, and the particles are directly bonded to each other without any other substance, except the inevitable impurities, so that they are essentially integrated.

<sup>\* [</sup>Numbers in right margin indicate pagination of the original text.]

- 2. The diamond sintered material of Claim 1 characterized by the fact that the density is at least 85%.
- 3. The diamond sintered material of Claim 1 or 2 characterized by the fact that the diamond containing a minute quantity of graphite.
- 4. The method for the production of the diamond sintered material any of Claims 1-3 characterized by the following facts: a diamond powder as sintering raw material containing 5-95 vol% of polycrystalline diamond powder with primary particle size in the range of 100 to 10 nm and secondary particle size in the range of 100 mm to 50 µm and with the remaining diamond powder having a particle size of up to 10 µm is sealed in a metal capsule; then, impact is performed for a metal plate or bullet emitted using explosion of explosive, gunpowder gun, 2-stage light gas gun or electrical method at a speed of 1.8 km/sec or higher in the case of equivalent collision condition between SUS 304 stainless steel members so as to generate high pressure and high temperature for sintering.
- 5. The method for the production of the diamond sintered material of Claim 4 characterized by the fact that the polycrystalline diamond powder as the sintering raw material is polycrystalline diamond prepared by synthesis with impact ultra-high pressure and having primary particle size in the range of 100-10 nm and secondary particle size in the range of 100-50  $\mu$ m.
- 6. The method for the production of the diamond sintered material of Claim 4 or 5 characterized by the fact that the diamond powder as the sintering raw material is made of natural diamond and/or diamond synthesized under ultra-high static pressure.

## Detailed explanation of the invention

Industrial application field

The present invention pertains to a diamond sintered material with high hardness and toughness and prepared by sintering a diamond powder free of inclusions at ultra-high pressure and high temperature generated by impact, as well as its manufacturing method.

#### Prior art

In the prior art, there are the following two major manufacturing methods of diamond sintered materials. In one method, Co, Ni, or another metal is added to the diamond powder, and the mixture is pressed under ultra-high static pressure, while a high temperature is generated with a heater, so that sintering takes place with inclusion of metal to form a diamond sintered material. Because the sintered material contains metal, when the sintered material is used as a cutting tool, the tool is weakened by the metal, which is weaker than the diamond, so that the performance is limited. In another method, diamond powder without additives is placed in a metal capsule, and

the ultra-high pressure generated by an explosion is directly transferred to it; or a metal plate, which is driven to move at high speed under ultra-high pressure generated by the explosive, is made to collide against the capsule, so that the diamond powder is compressed and molded to form a sintered material free of inclusions. For example, in Akashi and Sawaoka: Journal of Material Science, Vol. 22, pp. 3276, it is reported that sintered materials with a relative density of 88.5% and 91.0% with respect to the true density of diamond were obtained by applying an impact load of 90 G Pa on monocrystalline diamond powder having the two particle size ranges of 2-4 μm and 10-20 μm, respectively. Also, in the reference of Yoshida, Tanaka, Aoki and Fujiwara: Dai2 Kai Daiyamondo Shinpojiumu Koen Yoshishu [Proceedings of 2<sup>nd</sup> Diamond Symposium], December 14-15, 1987, p. 25, it is reported that a type of sintered material was obtained under impact pressure as the load applied to a sample having three particle sizes in the range of 5-7 μm, 0.5-1 μm and 0-0.5 μm. However, there is no report of its hardness or other properties. Also, there is a significant variation in hardness, and no measurement was made of the pressing dent. In particular, it is reported that graphite formation of diamond becomes significant for the particle size range of 0-0.5 μm.

Problems to be solved by the invention

When the aforementioned method is used with diamond particles of 500 nm or smaller, the high temperature that is generated together with the ultra-high pressure load converts the diamond particles to graphite, so that the high hardness characteristic of the diamond sintered material cannot be obtained. Consequently, sintering must performed on diamond particles 500 nm or larger, or preferably several  $\mu m$  or larger. However, when particles of 500 nm or larger are used as the sintering raw material, although said graphite formation hardly takes place, the following three problems arise.

The first is that as the diamond particles that are used as the raw material increase in size, the voids between particles naturally become larger. As a result, in order to bond the particles reliably, it is necessary to apply a deformation large enough to fill in said large voids between the diamond particles. In principle, if a pressure high enough to overcome the high deformation resistance due to the high hardness of the diamond particles is applied, the particles come in close contact with each other, and bonding can be realized by means of the high temperature generated at the same time. However, it is well known that diamond is a brittle material, and when treated under impact, cracks in the diamond particles inevitably are generated. Although cracks that have been generated can be re-bonded at high pressure and temperature, it is impossible to re-bond all of the cracks. The cracks remaining compromise the strength of the sintered material.

The second problem pertains to the load of the high pressure applied to solve the aforementioned first problem. That is, as a high pressure is applied, the aggregate of the diamond

particles are forcibly compressed, so that the temperature rises adiabatically. As long as the high pressure is applied, the temperature rises. Consequently, an undesirable high temperature is reached, which favors graphite formation, as opposing the efforts to avoid graphite formation made by increasing the particle size, and the necessary hardness of the sintered material cannot be maintained.

The third problem arises when said problems are solved and a sintered material is formed. It is well known that the cleavage plane of diamond is the (111) plane. That is, when stress parallel to the (111) plane is applied, the diamond can be easily divided along said plane. Consequently, when a monocrystalline diamond tool is used directly on either natural or synthetic diamond, caution should be exercised to avoid applying the main stress along the (111) plane. However, despite any precautions taken made, the diamond is loaded with stress in every direction when it is used as a tool. Due to this natural phenomenon, the diamond tool made of monocrystalline diamond will surely soon be damaged due to cleavage. In order to avoid this problem, plural particles are randomly set and sintered to form a high-strength integrated sintered material for use as a tool. As far as the fine structure of the sintered diamond is concerned, the individual particles are monocrystalline, and each of them has said problem of cleavage. Consequently, when the sintered diamond body is used as a tool for cutting, scribing, drilling, etc., because a locally concentrated impact stress is applied, the strength of the individual particles becomes a problem. For these particles, the cleavage property appears, and as stress is applied at an angle near the (111) plane, the particle are easily damaged. In some cases, the cracks propagate to the adjacent diamond particles, leading to quick wearing out of the sintered material. In summary, even for a sintered material consisting of particles set in random directions, since it is a collection of monocrystalline particles from the microscopic viewpoint, the aforementioned disadvantage remains.

## Means to solve the problems

In order to solve the aforementioned problems, the present inventors performed extensive theoretical and empirical research. As a result, the present invention was reached.

First, the present inventors have studied the measures for addressing the aforementioned three problems.

- (1) The problem that voids are large due to the use of large particles so that a high impact is needed, leading to the generation of cracks can be solved by reducing the diamond particle size of the raw material and using diamond particles which do it easily crack.
- (2) With the scheme of the preceding section, since no large particles are used, there is no need to apply high impact. Instead, lower impact is enough to realize sintering. Consequently, no temperature higher than what is needed is generated, and graphite formation, which is

detrimental to maintaining the strength of the sintered material can be avoided. However, if the particles are too small, since high temperature is generated selectively for the entirety of the particles during the sintering operation, said detrimental graphite formation takes place, so that the necessary hardness cannot be obtained. However, when particles of 500 nm or larger are used as described in the preceding section, graphite formation can be minimized. According to various experiments, in order to minimize cracking through the diamond particles, the prior art is unable to form the desired sintered material. Consequently, the measure to be explained below is needed.

(3) According to said second section, in the prior art, even when the impact strength is taken fully into account, it is still impossible to form a sintered material that can be used as a tool material with minimum harmful graphite formation. As the individual diamond particles have their single-crystal properties maintained even after the sintered material is formed, it is impossible to solve the aforementioned problems. As a result, said problems cannot be avoided as long as monocrystalline diamond particles are used. Consequently, the present inventors needed the fact that the diamond synthesized under the impact ultra-high pressure generated during collision with a metal plate or bullet emitted by the ultra-high pressure generated during the explosion of an explosive, gunpowder gun, 2-stage type light gas gun, or electrical method (hereinafter to be referred to as impact synthesized diamond) is of polycrystalline form. If it is mixed with the conventional monocrystalline diamond for use as the sintering raw material, the problems that used to take place when only monocrystalline diamond particles alone are sintered can be solved. As a matter of fact, in the sintered material, there is no directionality in the crystal. Consequently, for both the natural and synthetic forms, the cleavage property of the monocrystalline diamond is entirely avoided. Instead, the obtained sintered material has excellent wear resistance and impact strength, much better than those of the conventional sintered diamond. The polycrystalline form of the impact synthesized diamond means that plural very fine single-crystal particles, each very small in size (known as primary particles), are aggregated to form particles (known as secondary particles). The size of the primary particles is 10-100 nm, and the size of the secondary particles is tens of nm-hundreds of  $\mu$ m. When secondary particles each as an aggregate of primary particles of 100 nm or smaller are sintered virtually free of inclusions, the entire sintered material has 100-nm or smaller single-crystals set randomly in it to form an integrated body. For the very fine single-crystals of 100 nm or smaller, cleavage is not a problem at all. Consequently, if a sintered material is made of the impact synthesized diamond as raw material, there is no directionality at all, and an overall homogeneous ideal diamond is obtained. Also, when a mixture of the impact synthesized diamond and the conventional monocrystalline diamond is used as the sintering raw material, because the monocrystalline diamond is mixed with the polycrystalline diamond, even when a certain monocrystalline diamond particle is damaged, propagation of the damage is stopped with

the adjacent polycrystalline diamond particles. As a result, the damage is minimized. In addition, unlike the prior art, in which the particle size of the raw diamond powder must be 500 nm or larger to form an impact synthesized diamond using the conventional monocrystalline diamond, in the present invention, as a mixture of the impact synthesized diamond and the conventional monocrystalline diamond is used as the sintering raw material, the diamond sintered material obtained during sintering under the impact has excellent performance if the particle size of the impact synthesized diamond is in the range of 500-100 nm. In this case, if the proportion of the diamond particles of 100 nm or smaller is over 1%, due to the high temperature during the impact load and the residual high temperature when the pressure falls to atmospheric pressure, said small particles are converted to graphite preferably, and the hardness of the diamond sintered material decreases. Also, the "particle size" or the "particle diameter" in the present invention refers to the average value of the maximum size and minimum size of the particles.

The diamond sintered material containing unified particles of the present invention contains graphite converted from a minute quantity of diamond at a high temperature. It is believed this is the result that the portions protruding partially from the surface of the impact synthesized diamond of an undefined form are locally exposed to the high temperature of the instable region of diamond. Graphite is a soft material used as a solid lubricant, and its presence in the diamond sintered material which is required to have high hardness and strength, is undesired. However, for the diamond sintered material with ultra-fine particles of the present invention, the performance is better than that of the commercially available diamond sintered material prepared under ultra-high pressure of the prior art, and there is little problem. Instead, this is believed to be a characteristic feature of the diamond sintered material of the present invention.

## Effects of the invention

For the sintered material of the present invention, the impact synthesized diamond and the conventional monocrystalline diamond are mixed for use as the sintering raw material, and sintering is performed under impact. Because the monocrystalline diamond and polycrystalline diamond are mixed with each other, even when a certain monocrystalline diamond particle is damaged, propagation of the damage can be stopped with the adjacent polycrystalline diamond particles. Consequently, the damage can be minimized. Due to this effect, the diamond sintered material of the present invention can be used for cutting tools, die, digging tools, and wear resistant materials, without any cleavage property of the natural or synthetic monocrystalline diamond or the sintered diamond of the prior art prepared from natural or synthetic monocrystalline diamond as the raw material. This is a brand new type of high-quality sintered material.

## Application examples

In the following, the present invention will be explained in more detail with reference to application examples.

# Application Example 1

Sintering raw material (2) prepared as a mixture of 35% of diamond particles prepared by explosion impact and with particle size of over 99% of the particles in the range of 200-500 nm and monocrystalline diamond particles prepared using static ultra-high pressure and with over 95% the particles having particle size in the range of 1-3 µm was filled in capsule portion (1), which is a sample container with cross-sectional view shown in Figure 1, is made of cylindrical SUS 304 stainless steel with outer diameter of 25 mm and height of 30 mm, having a sample chamber with diameter of 12 mm and depth of 27 mm, and having female threads over a depth of 12 mm in the inlet portion of the sample chamber. Then, lid (3) also made of SUS 304 copper, measuring 22 mm in height and 12 mm in diameter and having male threads in a portion with a length of 10 mm on one end of the side surface was applied and screwed on. On lid (3), hole (4) with diameter of 1 mm is formed beforehand. After the diamond particles were sealed in, the unit was kept in a 10<sup>-5</sup> torr vacuum furnace at 400°C for 4 h to remove the adsorbed oxygen. After the end of the removal operation of oxygen, the evacuation hole was sealed in vacuum with a brazing metal to maintain the internal vacuum.

The quantity of the diamond sealed in it is 1.32 g, the bulk specific gravity is 2.33 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and the relative value with respect to the true specific gravity of diamond is about 66.4%.

In the similar way, a total of four capsules were prepared. The capsules were loaded with lid (3) of each capsule facing downward in 25-mm-diameter holes of an assembly known as Moment Trap made of SS 41 steel with cross-sectional view shown in Figure 2 and consisting of sample accommodating part (5) prepared by forming four 25-mm-diameter holes with wall perpendicular to the plane equidistantly with diameter of 45 mm on the plane of a circular plate with diameter of 80 mm and thickness of 30 mm, ring (6) with outer diameter of 120 mm, inner diameter of 80 mm, and thickness of 30 mm, and circular plate (7) with diameter of 120 mm and thickness of 30 mm. The entirety was buried, with the side of sample accommodating part (5) facing upward, in clay (9) filled in lidless polypropylene container (8) with depth of 120 mm and diameter of 200 mm. Then, wood plank (12) was set on steel vessel (11), filled with water (10) in an explosion silencer, and constitution (13) of the samples, etc. was carried at the center of the vessel. On the central portion of SS41 steel plate (14) measuring 3.2 mm in thickness and 150 mm as each edge length, a circular plate shaped molding of explosive (15) measuring 30 mm in thickness and 120 mm in diameter and having specific gravity of 1.64 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and explosion speed

of 9,000 m/sec was carried. Wood pieces (16) with height of 30 mm, width of 30 mm and thickness of 15 mm were set at the four corners of steel plate (14) so that the bottom surface of steel plate (14) and the upper surface of constitution (13) were parallel to each other and with a distance of 30 mm from each other. Also, plane wave generator (17) is carried on the upper surface of the explosive, and #6 electric fuse (18) was installed. As current was fed to it, an explosion of explosive (15) took place, so that steel plate (14) on the lower side of explosive (15) moved at high speed and collided at a speed of 2.8 km/sec parallel against the upper surface of constitution (13). In this case, the pressure generated at the impact surface between steel place (14) and the SUS 304 stainless steel on the surface of constitution (13) was 71.8 GPa (about 730,000 atm) at the measurement site.

Constitution (13) impacted with said steel plate was hit into water (10) filled in vessel (11), and it was then recovered from the bottom of vessel (11). In constitution (13), although sample accommodating part (5) and ring (6) were damaged seriously, capsule (1) with lid (3) was kept nearly in its original shape, although certain deformation was observed.

The end of the opposite side of lid (3) of recovered capsule (1) was cut on a lathe until the surface of the filled diamond was exposed. It was found that the entire diamond became a reliably bonded sintered material.

The surface of the obtained diamond sintered material was polished with a diamond paste with particle size in the range of 5-10  $\mu$ m to a smoothness that allows test of the  $\mu$ Vickers hardness. Then, under a load of 1 kgf, the  $\mu$ Vickers hardness was measured. It was found to be (on average) 4,830 kgf/mm<sup>2</sup> (n = 12) on the surface of incidence of the impact wave, and (on average) 6,320 kgf/mm<sup>2</sup> (n = 12) on the surface of the opposite side.

The density of the obtained sintered material was measured using the Archimedian method, and it was found to be 3.29 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and the relative density with respect to the true density of diamond of 3.51 g/cm<sup>3</sup> is 93.7%.

The surface of the obtained diamond sintered material was checked with X-ray diffraction test, and it was found that a little graphite with a wide diffraction angle is present on both the upper and lower surfaces of the circular plate.

The sintered material with diameter of about 12 mm and thickness of about 3.5 mm was cut into a cruciform shape with a laser beam. As a fan-shaped chip, where each edge is about 5.8 mm and the apex is 90°, the diamond sintered material was attached to the end of a steel handle 12.7 mm square and 150 mm long, with the diamond sintered material wrapped in the brazing metal to form a bit to be tested. As a control, a similar bit was prepared from a commercially available diamond sintered material containing Co and prepared by means of static ultra-high pressure sintering.

Then, a cylindrical sintered material prepared by baking a molding of a mixture of 92 wt% of WC powder and 8 wt% of Co powder at 900°C for 1 h and measuring about 100 mm in diameter and about 250 mm in length was cut with the bit prepared by attaching the diamond sintered material of the present invention. The cutting conditions include a circumferential speed of 55-30 m/min, a cutting depth of 0.3-0.5 mm, and feeding speed of 0.2 mm/rev. In this way, cutting was performed for 2 h, and when the cutting sensation decreased slightly, the test was ended. The blade of the sintered material was observed on a 20X 3-D microscope, and it was found that the tip retracted by 0.28 mm due to wear.

Then, the same cutting test was performed using said bite prepared from the commercially available diamond sintered material containing Co. It was found that at 13 min after start of cutting, the blade was damaged, and cutting could no longer be carried out.

# Comparative Example 1

The experiment described in Application Example 1 was repeated. However, in this example, the filled diamond was prepared by means of a fusion catalyst under a static ultra-high pressure. The individual diamond particles were monocrystalline. Also, over 99% of all of the particles have size in the range of 250-500 nm. 1.18 g of said sample was filled in a capsule of the same size as that used in Application Example 1. In this case, the bulk specific gravity is 2.08 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and the relative value with respect to the true specific gravity of the diamond is about 59.4%.

The recovered capsule was cut in the same way as in Application Example 1 to expose the diamond portion. At first glance, it appeared to have been reliably sintered.

As in Application Example 1, the  $\mu$ Vickers hardness was measured, and it was found that the hardness was (on average) 3710 kgf/mm<sup>2</sup> (n = 12) on the surface of incidence of the impact wave, and it was (on average) 4920 kgf/mm<sup>2</sup> (n = 12) on the surface of the opposite side.

Also, the surface of the diamond sintered material was checked with X-ray diffraction test. Peaks indicating diffraction of the (002) plane of graphite with a wide diffraction angle was observed on both the upper surface and lower surface of the circular plate, indicating presence of a minute quantity of graphite. The value obtained by dividing the height of the diffraction peak with the height of the (111) peak of the diamond was found to be 0.18, as compared with the value of 0.03 in Application Example 1. This indicates that it has a higher graphite formation degree. The  $\mu$ Vickers hardness was found to be less than in Application Example 1, and this might be the reason.

Then, just as in Application Example 1, a bite for cutting test was prepared from the obtained diamond sintered material, and then the same cutting test was performed. As a result, it was found that the bite tip was broken at 8 min after the start of the cutting operation. This is

even worse than the result obtained with the commercially available diamond sintered material by means of static ultra-high pressure sintering.

# **Application Examples 2-6**

The experiment as in Application Example 1 was repeated, except that the particle size and the type of the diamond particles, and the speed of collision of the steel plate with the surface of the capsule with the diamond sample accommodated in it were different. Table 1 lists the conditions and the results. In the table, the "filling rate" refers to the percentage of the bulk specific gravity when the diamond particles are filled with respect to the true specific gravity of 3.515 g/cm<sup>3</sup> of the diamond. Also, the generated pressure refers to the pressure generated at the impact surface between the steel plate and the stainless steel capsule.

Lievo.	グイヤミンドの機能と 粒子付法、混合単端 及び実験単派	HKEE (In/sec)	発生E力 (GPa)	勒 黑
2	計 <b>組合</b> ASダイサモンド 50mm - 2 pm : 2034 単体用ダイサモンド 3 - 5 pm : 1036 <b>大連</b> 第: 51.336	£.8	40.0	京好な体証体の4%られた ビッカース硬度3,303 6,800。 X額側所のダイヤモンド の((M)) 張のピーク値に 対する単純のの(2) 至の ピーク比は0,06であった。
3	in Wentタイナモンド 200mm - 500mm : 90% 単版Mタイヤキンド: メ* - 2 ** : 10% 大は本: 61.2%	2.2	\$2.0	自好な地域体が明られた ビッカース関係5.50 - 7.100。 X軽回野のダイヤモンド む(11) 190ビーカ級に 対する系統の(302) 18の ビーク社は8.08であった。
*	<b>は取</b> 合成ダイヤモン) 18 <b>0sm - 50sm : 35%</b> 即は基ダイヤモン : 5 pm - 10pm : 5 % 充化平 : 58.1% ③	2.0	48.6	解析な抗動体が終られた ビッカースを度5.500 ー 5,500 。 X 練別所のダイヤモンド の(11)1 第のピーカ保に おける四数のの(2)1 既の モーク性は0.10であった。
5	11 #400 # 4 + 4 > F 100m - 500m : 15 % ****	2.0	48.0	別がな現場体が明られた ビッカース研究3.800 - 6.900 : Xは記載のダイヤモンド の()()) 前のピータ係に 対する基準の3020 は面 のピータ社は3.03であっ た。
6		2.0	48.0	Refないはは4かのでもれた ビッカースを対6.100 ー 6.500 X は時間所のダイヤモンド の(1311 死のビータがに 対するの数のの201 最の

Key: 1 Application Example No.

2 Type and particle size of diamond, mixture %, filling rate %

(† \*

- 3 Impact speed
- 4 Generated pressure
- 5 Results
- 6 Impact synthesized diamond: 500 nm-2 μm: 20% Monocrystalline diamond: 3-5 μm: 80%
  - Filling rate: 61.8%
- 7 Impact synthesized diamond: 200-500 nm: 90%

Monocrystalline diamond: 1-2 µm: 10%

Filling rate: 63.2%

8 Impact synthesized diamond: 100-500 nm: 95%

Monocrystalline diamond: 5-10 µm: 5%

Filling rate: 58.1%

9 Impact synthesized diamond: 100-500 nm: 5%

Monocrystalline diamond: 5-8 µm: 95%

Filling rate: 60.7%

10 Impact synthesized diamond: 500 nm-5 μm: 25%

Monocrystalline diamond: 3-5 µm: 75%

Filling rate: 68.0%

Good sintered material was obtained.

Vickers hardness of 5,300-6,800

Ratio of the peak value of (111) plane of diamond in the X-ray diffraction to the peak value of (002) plane of graphite: 0.06

12 Good sintered material was obtained.

Vickers hardness of 5,500-7,100

Ratio of the peak value of (111) plane of diamond in the X-ray diffraction to the peak value of (002) plane of graphite: 0.08

13 Good sintered material was obtained.

Vickers hardness of 5,500-6,600

Ratio of the peak value of (111) plane of diamond in the X-ray diffraction to the peak value of (002) plane of graphite: 0.10

14 Good sintered material was obtained.

Vickers hardness of 5,800-6,900

Ratio of the peak value of (111) plane of diamond in the X-ray diffraction to the peak value of (002) plane of graphite: 0.03

15 Good sintered material was obtained.

Vickers hardness of 6,100-6,950

Ratio of the peak value of (111) plane of diamond in the X-ray diffraction to the peak value of (002) plane of graphite: 0.03

# Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating the capsule for accommodating the sample.

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the Momentum Trap and the recovering vessel for performing impact processing and recovery of the sample.

- 1 Capsule portion
- 2 Sintering raw material
- 3 Lid
- 4 Hole for evacuation
- 5 Sample accommodating part
- 6 Ring

- 7 Circular plate
- 8 Vessel
- 9 Clay
- 10 Water
- 11 Vessel
- Wood plank
- 13 Constitution
- 14 Steep plate
- 15 Explosive
- Wood piece
- 17 Plane wave generator
- 18 Electric fuse

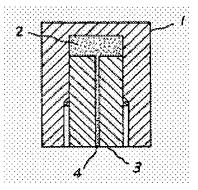


Figure 1

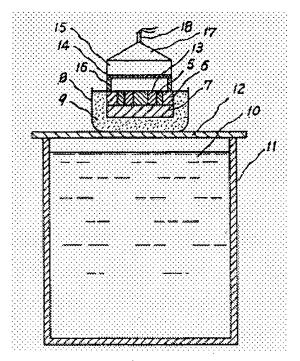


Figure 2